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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants

Richard Ian Christopherson et al.

Application No.

09/888,959

Filed

June 25, 2001

For

ASSAY TO DETECT A BINDING PARTNER

Examiner

Anne L. Holleran

Art Unit

1642

Docket No.

650061.401C1

Date

October 4, 2004

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY AND AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.112 AND 1.121

Commissioner for Patents:

In response to the Office Action mailed by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) on June 3, 2004, please extend the period of time for response one (1) month to expire on October 4, 2004, due to the fact that October 3, 2004 falls on a Sunday. Enclosed are a Petition for an Extension of Time and the requisite fee. Please amend the application as follows.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.